

Pat.Appn.Nr 09/872,990

Docket 437-01US

remarks,
as submitted following telecon w examiner 01 June 2004

1. In the telecon, the examiner (Mr Hruskoci) felt the as-filed specification did not support the amended wording we had previously suggested for clause 6 of claim 1. The amended wording is now offered instead. We also confirm the minor amendment to claim 32.
2. Regarding support for the amendments to claim 29, please note paragraph [0035] of the as-filed specification (being the version as-published under 2002/0185456).
3. We also wish to enter new claim 33, which adds further definition to a preferred form of the invention. There are many examples to support this claim, including §§ 35,51,56,59,62,66,75,79 of the as-published specification.
4. We also wish to explain a point made in the specification. In the last sentence of §[0035] of the as-published spec, we say: *In a preferred embodiment, the shearing step is carried out subsequent to the incubation step.* This means we prefer to shear the sludge after it has been heated -- that is to say, while it is still hot. We do not prefer to let the sludge go cold before shearing it.

Submitted by,



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